

Lecturer wins student award

By Caroline McMorran

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A DORNOCH-based academic has been named as the University of the Highlands and Islands' 'Best Dissertation Supervisor'.

Dr Elizabeth Ritchie, a lecturer at the Centre for History at the Burghfield House campus, was nominated by students in the university's sixth annual teaching awards.

She was praised for going the extra mile to support her students by providing encouragement, constructive feedback and extra opportunities to help develop their skills and experience.

One student said: "Dr Ritchie helped me refine my thinking, made suggestions for reading, identified relevant material in archives and continuously encouraged me."

Students were given the opportunity to contribute to the Land and

People Conference co-ordinated by Dr Ritchie in Strathnaver last year. She also invites contributions to her Historylinks (Dornoch museum) blog.

Explaining her role as a dissertation supervisor, Dr Ritchie, who will be presented with a trophy and certificate, said: "In the final year of their degree, students choose a subject on which to write a dissertation. My job is to help them locate original documents and construct a question that is possible to answer with the fragments of evidence we have and to assist them in framing their research into a final report."

The University of the Highlands and Islands was one of the first UK institutions to introduce student-led teaching awards. The initiative, now in its sixth year, recognises excellence in seven categories, with winners coming from around the university partnership.



Dr Elizabeth Ritchie.